

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-20

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TO USDEL RIYADH IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REUTER WIRE STORY

FOLLOWING STORY MOVED ON REUTER WIRE AS REUTER 159, 161
AND 162 BY CORRESPONDENT STEPHEN SOMERVILLE:

QTE

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, NOV. 8, REUTER -- U.S. SECRETARY
OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER FLEW TO RIYADH TODAY FROM AMMAN
FOR TALKS WITH SAUDI ARABIA'S KING FAISAL ON THE FIFTH
AND LAST STOP OF HIS PEACE MISSION TO THE ARAB WORLD.

HE WAS HAVING PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH THE MINISTER OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OMAR AL-SAKKAF, THIS AFTERNOON
BEFORE MEETING KING FAISAL FOR DINNER AND FORMAL TALKS
AFTERWARDS.

KISSINGER WAS MET AT RIYADH AIRPORT BY SAKKAF AND BY AN
HONOR GUARD OF KHAKI-UNIFORMED ROYAL GUARDSMEN. BUT THE
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RECEPTION IN GENERAL WAS LOW-KEY. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, MANY PEOPLE IN THE SAUDI CAPITAL WERE UNAWARE OF KISSINGER'S VISIT.

FROM THE AIRPORT, HE WAS DRIVEN ALONG THE BROAD HIGHWAYS WHICH ARE A FEATURE OF RIYADH'S RAPID EXPANSION IN RECENT

YEARS,
TO THE AL-MAZAR ROYAL PALACE, WHERE THE PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH SAKKAF WERE HELD.

SAUDI ARABIAN OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM AT REPORTS FROM CAIRO THAT KISSINGER HAS ACHIEVED SOME KIND OF BREAKTHROUGH TOWARDS A COMPROMISE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

BUT THEY ARE WAITING TO HEAR WHAT HE HIMSELF HAS TO SAY AND EVEN THEN THEY MAY NOT MAKE ANY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

PARTICULAR INTEREST IS ATTACHED TO WHAT JOSEPH SISCO, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE REACTION OF ISRAELI LEADERS TO KISSINGER'S TALKS IN CAIRO.

SISCO FLEW TO TEL AVIV YESTERDAY TO BRIEF THE ISRAELIS. HE RECEIVED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S REPLY TO THE PROPOSALS MADE BY KISSINGER.

SENIOR OFFICIALS IN TEL AVIV HINTED THAT THE REPLY WAS FAVORABLE IN PRINCIPLE.

HE WAS REJOINING KISSINGER IN RIYADH TODAY. THE OTHER MAIN TOPIC OF KISSINGER'S TALKS HERE WILL NO DOUBT BE SAUDI ARABIA'S CUT-BACK OF OIL PRODUCTION AND ITS TOTAL EMBARGO ON OIL EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES TO BRING WORLD PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ISRAEL.

SAUDI OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN PLEASED AT THE IMPACT OF THEIR STRATEGY AND SEEM DETERMINED TO PRESS ON AND EVEN ESCALATE THE RESTRICTIONS UNLESS THEY ARE SURE THAT
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A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT IS BEING ACHIEVED.

SUCH A POLICY IS NO HARDSHIP FOR A COUNTRY WHICH HAS A QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S KNOWN OIL RESERVES, AND IS THE BIGGEST EXPORTER OF OIL IN THE WORLD.

KISSINGER IS DUE TO FLY TO TEHERAN FOR A QUICK VISIT TO IRAN TOMORROW MORNING ON HIS WAY TO ANOTHER VISIT

TO CHINA.

HE IS SCHEDULED TO STAY IN TEHERAN FOR THREE HOURS AND 20 MINUTES AND IS DUE TO HAVE TALKS WITH THE SHAH.

BEFORE LEAVING JORDAN FOR SAUDI ARABIA, KISSINGER TOLD REPORTERS THAT HIS FIVE-HOUR TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN AND JORDANIAN OFFICIALS HAD BEEN PRODUCTIVE. THE DISCUSSIONS MOSTLY DEALT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION, HE ADDED.

KISSINGER, WHO WAS SEEN OFF BY KING HUSSEIN AND CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, WAS ACCORDED A RED-CARPET RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL IN AMMAN FROM CAIRO ON THE FINAL DAY OF HIS MIDDLE EAST PEACE TOUR.

ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE AT THIS STAGE, KISSINGER, WHO HAD ALREADY VISITED MOROCCO, TUNISIA AND EGYPT, REPLIED: "THAT IS WHAT I AM TRAVELLING THROUGH THE AREA TO DISCOVER. THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT AND WE WILL MAKE THE MAJOR EFFORT TO PROMPT IT."

END TEXT
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